This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (previously presented) A method for controlling at least one computing element with a universal console (UC), comprising:

receiving input from a user indicative of at least one user preference for the UC;

storing the at least one user preference;

selecting a computing element to control with the UC;

receiving by the UC a canonical user interface (UI) representation of the computing element's UI wherein the canonical UI representation is pre-defined for the computing element;

instantiating a concrete UI by the UC taking into account the stored at least one user preference;

selecting at least one action-command to be carried out by the computing element; and

transmitting to the computing element data associated with said at least one action-command using a remote procedure call mechanism.

2. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said selecting at least one action-command includes requesting information about the state of said at least one computing element.

3. (original) A method according to claim 1, further comprising interacting with at least one group hierarchy to obtain data in connection with said selected at least one action-command to be carried out by the computing element.

4. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said storing includes storing data indicating at least one disability of the user.

5. (original) A method according to claim 1, further including carrying out said action-command by said computing element.

6. (original) A method according to claim 1, further including receiving by the UC notifications from the computing element.

7. (original) A method according to claim 6, wherein said notifications include at least one of an error message, warning message, status update message and state change.

8. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said canonical UI representation is formatted according to an XML stream.

9. (original) A method according to claim 1, further including requesting a list of available devices that may be controlled by UC.

10. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein communications between said UC and said computing element are made via Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP).

11. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said computing element is one from the group of a computing device and an application.

12. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein said remote procedure call mechanism makes calls according to Simple Object Activation Protocol (SOAP).

13. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said canonical UI representation includes a representation associated with a parameter for choosing one element a from a set A.

14. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said canonical UI representation includes a representation associated with a parameter for selecting a subset A' from a set A.

15. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said canonical UI representation includes a representation associated with a parameter for selecting one from the group of True/False, Off/On, OK/Cancel and Yes/No.

16. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said canonical UI representation includes a representation associated with a parameter for selecting an integer n in the range n_1 through n_2, with increment δ.

17. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said canonical UI representation includes a representation associated with a parameter for selecting a real number x in the range x1 through x2, with increment δ.

18. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said canonical UI representation includes a representation associated with a parameter type for an arbitrary string s.

19. (original) A method according to claim 18, wherein said arbitrary string s is to be selected from a suggestion set of strings S.

20. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said canonical UI representation includes a representation associated with a parameter type for the modification of a given first string s, resulting in a second string s'.

21. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said canonical UI representation includes a representation associated with a parameter type for ordering the elements of set A into A'.

22. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said canonical UI representation includes a representation associated with a parameter type for pairing set A elements with set B elements.

23. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said canonical UI representation includes a representation associated with a group construct that contains at least one of commands and subgroups.

24. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein said canonical UI representation includes a representation associated with a command construct that specifies at least one action to send to the controlled element that will carry out the action-command.

25. (original) A method according to claim 24, wherein said canonical UI representation includes a description of the parameters associated with the at least one action.

26-41. (canceled)

42. (currently amended) A computer system operable to allow a user to control at least one computing element, said system comprising:

at least one computing element ~~each~~ having a pre-defined canonical user interface (UI) description associated therewith;

a universal console (UC) for controlling said at least one computing element and operable to store user preferences input to the computer system by the user;

wherein ~~a computing element of~~ said at least one computing element communicates its associated canonical UI to said UC;

wherein said UC generates a concrete UI description from said canonical UI and said stored user preferences; and

wherein, ~~a user~~ thereafter, ~~utilizes~~ said UC is operable to control said computing element via said concrete UI by ~~selecting~~ user-selection of at least one action-command.

43. (currently amended) A computer system according to claim 42, wherein said ~~selecting at least one action-command~~ user selection includes requesting information about the state of said at least one computing element.

44. (currently amended) A computer system according to claim 42, wherein ~~a user of~~ said UC is operable to enable a user to interact ~~interacts~~ with at least one group hierarchy to obtain data in connection with said selected at least one action-command to be carried out by the computing element.

45. (original) A computer system according to claim 42, wherein said storage of user preferences includes the storage of data indicating at least one disability of the user.

46. (original) A computer system according to claim 42, wherein said at least one computing element carries out said at least one action-command.

47. (original) A computer system according to claim 42, wherein said UC receives notifications from the at least one computing element.

48. (original) A computer system according to claim 47, wherein said notifications include at least one of an error message, warning message, status update message and state change.

49. (original) A computer system according to claim 42, wherein said canonical UI description is formatted according to an XML stream.

50. (currently amended) A computer system according to claim 42, wherein said ~~selecting at least one action command~~ user-selection includes requesting a list of available devices that may be controlled by UC.

51. (original) A computer system according to claim 42, wherein communications between said UC and said computing element are made via Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP).

52. (original) A computer system according to claim 42, wherein said computing element is one from the group of a computing device and an application.

53. (previously presented) A computer system according to claim 42, wherein said remote procedure call mechanism makes calls according to Simple Object Activation Protocol (SOAP).

54. (original) A computer system according to claim 42, wherein said canonical UI description includes a description associated with a parameter for choosing one element a from a set A.

55. (original) A computer system according to claim 42, wherein said canonical UI description includes a description associated with a parameter for selecting a subset A' from a set A.

56. (original) A computer system according to claim 42, wherein said canonical UI description includes a description associated with a parameter for selecting one from the group of True/False, Off/On, OK/Cancel and Yes/No.

57. (original) A computer system according to claim 42, wherein said canonical UI description includes a description associated with a parameter for selecting an integer n in the range n_1 through n_2, with increment δ.

58. (original) A computer system according to claim 42, wherein said canonical UI description includes a description associated with a parameter for selecting a real number x in the range x1 through x2, with increment δ.

59. (original) A computer system according to claim 42, wherein said canonical UI description includes a description associated with a parameter type for an arbitrary string s.

60. (original) A computer system according to claim 59, wherein said arbitrary string s is to be selected from a suggestion set of strings S.

61. (original) A computer system according to claim 42, wherein said canonical UI description includes a description associated with a parameter type for the modification of a given first string s, resulting in a second string s'.

62. (original) A computer system according to claim 42, wherein said canonical UI description includes a description associated with a parameter type for ordering the elements of set A into A'.

63. (original) A computer system according to claim 42, wherein said canonical UI description includes a description associated with a parameter type for pairing set A elements with set B elements.

64. (original) A computer system according to claim 42, wherein said canonical UI description includes a description associated with a group construct that contains at least one of commands and subgroups.

65. (original) A computer system according to claim 42, wherein said canonical UI description includes a description associated with a command construct that specifies at least one action to send to the controlled element that will carry out the action-command.

66. (original) A computer system according to claim 65, wherein said canonical UI description includes a description of the parameters associated with the at least one action.

67. (previously presented) A computer readable medium comprising computer executable instructions for controlling at least one computing element with a universal console (UC), comprising:

means for receiving input from a user indicative of at least one user preference for the UC;

means for storing the at least one user preference;

means for selecting a computing element to control with the UC;

means for receiving by the UC a canonical user interface (UI) representation of the computing element's UI wherein the canonical UI representation is pre-defined for the computing element;

means for instantiating a concrete UI by the UC taking into account the stored at least one user preference;

means for selecting at least one action-command to be carried out by the computing element; and

means for transmitting to the computing element data associated with said at least one action-command.